

Stories of the life of Thomas Davies (1854) As told by his son Lorenzo Snow Davies to his Son Franklin David Davies.

The following is from Thomas's own journal.

I was born on the 21st Day of October, 1854, in Fillmore in the old Fort. As soon as I was old enough I was sent to herd the sheep and cows. The year I was ten I was baptized. I went to school about three months that year. That was all the schooling I Had. The year I was thirteen I worked for Harris Owens in the brick yard. When I was fourteen we put our land in the united order and I was sent to work in the old sink field that year and the next. The winter agter I was 19 I was called to go to work on the temple in St. George. Stayed there all winter. Worked for the 71 hurd that summer and the next. In the winter hauled salt to ward and peache that year. (Winter of 1876)

The summer of 1877 I went and worked on the Manti Temple. Had to go home on account of bad fever. Had a bad case of chills and fever for over a year. The winter of 1878 went to St. George and was batised for health. Had no more chills.

In the year 1880, April 30th , I married Mary Ann cooper in the St. George Temple. We went to Deseret to Live. (this was the end of his own writings)

Lorenzo S. Davies continues speaking of his father: Although grandfather had little formal education he was not ignorant. I have heard my father say that few people had a better understanding of the gospel then grandfather.

Shortly after Mary Ann and Thomas's second child was born he was called on a mission to the State of Mississippi. Where he had many trials as well as successes. The houses in this part of the country are fairly open with the door and windows usually left open. One evening about dusk Father and his companion were sitting by the fire explaining the gospel to the occupant of the house when a mob gathered to do harm to the missionaries. Father put out the fire with a pail of water near it and grab a club behind the door. He called out to the mob that the first to come in would get beat. This scared the mob enough that they started shooting at the house. Gather said, they were shoot at abut 16 times before the mob left. Father was not hurt but his companion was grease on the chin by one of the flying bullets. (This occurred in Jones County 18 Jan 1884)

About 5 or 6 months after this incident father and his companion were out tracking, when he said that the most awful feeling had come over him and felt they should return to the mission head quarters. He was reluctant to say anything to his companion but finally mentioned his feeling to his companion who said he had felt the same way. Upon their arrival at head- quarters they learned that 2 missionaries by the names of Gibbs and Berry were killed by a mob along with two other fellows. (This occurrence can be found in the chronology of the church by Andrew Jensen.)

Thomas returned from his mission and was in the bishopric when the Deseret ward was divided. He then became part of the bishopric of the Hinckley Ward.

About the turn of the 20th century people were settling in Canada and Mexico. Father was undecided where he should move. His nephew George Black told him that if he wanted to make money he should go to Canada, but if he wanted to live his religion to go to Mexico. So Father wrote to President Marion Lyman (at one time a councilor to Brigham Young(, who told him it would be pleasing in the sight of the Lord if he would go to Canada. Thus on the 3rd of April 1900 Thomas Davies, His Mother (Mary Ann Jones Jacway Bates Davies) and family started for Canada bringing with them 3 team and driving a large herd of cattle.

The first summer they lived at Beazer and Father bought land at Spring Coullee where they moved in the fall. The first Sunday School that I, Lorenzo, can remember was held at Mr Dells shoemaker home. Then in 1905 they moved to Raymond and in that same year Father and Ivan went to Taber to take up homesteads. At that time land was dry and in 1910 after 4 crop failures in a row they moved to the Cochran Ranch. Father obtained a load of lumber from south of Mountain View and build a home on the West quarter of the half section Percy Wynder now lives on (1960). In the fall of 1910 he moved a house off another quarter he had bought into HillSpring and added 2 more rooms to it. During that winter he was put in as 2nd councilor in the Bishopric. He lived in HillSpring until about 1925 when they decided to move to Cardston to work in the temple.

Father's character was such that without any responsibilities he became very restless in Cardston. Father had an old horse. He would take to town to ride but when he got tired of caring for him, he would turn the horse loose and the horse would come back to the ranch at HillSpring.

Father was as very religious man although very persistent if he thought something was right. He would even fight a boss to prove himself right, as the saying goes. On one occasion which I remember, a group of farmers were going to buy a Thrashing machine. They told father to go ahead and buy the machine. The Salesman came out with a great big cigar in his mouth. They were discussing the deal out side of the house. Father kept moving a round to get out of the smoke but the salesman kept moving back so the smoke was in father's face. Father suddenly turned and walked to the house, leaving the man standing there. The salesman finally asked me what was the matter with Father, I told him I didn't know for sure but that I thought that he had made father angry by blowing smoke in his face. Father was so discussed with him he wouldn't see the man again. Father broke his leg and got pneumonia of the bone and died on 9 Sept 1940 and was buried in the Cardston Cemetery.